

# Who's in Times

VOLUME 18





# WHO'S CORNER



BY  
DOCTOR FROG

Hi-ya kids, Hi-ya Hi-ya! Doctor Frog here and happy to be back in the Whovian Times. I have had so much mail while I've been away and thought I would share some of it with you. As you will read, I have some good news and some bad news, but we can take it, can't we? I hope Andrew Beech doesn't croak (no pun intended) when he reads this (and I know he, along with all the British fans, are waiting with baited breath). OK, here goes...

Dear Editor:

I am sick and tired of so-called fans such as Andrew Beech criticizing the new series and laying all the blame at the feet of John Nathan-Turner. I have written calm, reasoned letters to various *Doctor Who* magazines in the past on this subject, but to no avail. I now believe that it's time for me to get a little more emotion into my presentation. Hopefully, this will be printed in the *Whovian Times*.

It seems to me that Mr. Beech needs two things: a strong serving of humility, and a chance to watch *Robot*. Let me dissect his "analysis" of the new season point by point.

"Pantomime Antics", "the Doctor grinning inanely, prancing and doing pratfalls over non-existent obstacles..." *Robot* featured the Tom Baker Doctor offering a jelly baby to Harry and snatching it back when Harry contradicts him. Nonsense worthy of Mr. McCoy after the regeneration, three or four bizarre costumes, the Doctor skipping rope, and (when the Doctor first sees the TARDIS) a wide-mouthed expression of shocked joy that would embarrass any acting teacher. Yet Mr. Beech loves what he remembers of Tom Baker and can't stand McCoy. Perhaps absence does make the nose grow longer.

"...uttering lines such as 'absence makes the nose grow longer'..." Does he remember Tom Baker's "Vaporization without representation is against the Constitution" and "If you can't stand the cold, get out of the freezer"? Or Jon Pertwee's less inventive but equally inane jokes about the Planet Delphon in *Spearhead from Space*? Personally, I have heard lines similar to or worse than "time and tide melts the snowman", and not just from the JNT era.

"The bright colors, the starry cast, and the glitzy 'production values'... over-bright lights have been a fault, every program made in color, notably *The Mind of Evil*, *Robot* (yes, I do keep coming back to it), *The Invisible Enemy*, *The Horns of Nimon*, and *Timeflight*. Also, he contradicts himself; how do tinsel sets fit with glitzy production values?"

"I attribute its early success to the integrity with which the central character was played..." The "integrity" began to vanish with Patrick Troughton's comic portrayal and send-up of William Hartnell's seriousness. Mr. Beech would probably have strongly criticized the first regeneration, saying that Mr. Troughton was "making a cheap joke of the role."

"The introduction of guest stars makes it impossible for the audience to suspend its disbelief any longer." Why does the fact that a person is well known mean that he/she can't act? Listing the guest stars of the JNT era will include definitely a few hams, but inept acting has existed among the unknowns in the series. And if one wishes to criticize inept star acting, one should go back to *An Unearthly Child* and William Russell's stumble in the scrapyard.

Also, Mr. Beech slanderously attacks the fifth Doctor. Preference of a Doctor is exceedingly subjective, so I shall try not to argue on this point. However, since he comments on the acting of all the recent Doctors, let me state again that he must have a short memory.

"Producer John Nathan-Turner has placed his own light entertainment interpretation upon the programme..." His memory is even shorter than I thought. JNT's interpretation of the programme could equally well have been the biting black-comedy satire of the often-criticized 22nd season, or the true SF bent of the 18th season. If, however, those were merely Eric Seward's (of which Mr. Beech had apparently seen only one episode) is Andrew Cartmell's. He can't win either way.

"And the viewing figures show that this approach is not popular." JNT has pulled in ratings of up to 10 million, and even the 24th season is reaching 5 million on the average against *Coronation Street*. Mr. Beech is completely wrong.

"A case point is villainess Kate O'Mara, who last played the Rani... in austere makeup and utilitarian leather costume. This week she reappeared in full *Dynasty* hairdo, shoulder pads and lurex." So? JNT produced both of the Rani stories, and should he really be held responsible for the character's costumes? JNT is under attack from all sides; he was derided a while back for not having his Doctors or the Master change their costumes.

Basically, I believe that Mr. Beech and his fellow "true fans" are out on a limb. If they deluge you with letters covering exactly the same territory as Mr. Beech's, please ignore them and save space for the other letters with differing viewpoints. We'll all be better off.

BY

Jonathan Blum  
Rockville, MD

Gentlemen,

I have been a DWFEA member for some time now. During that time, I have written several letters responding to the views expressed by others who write in. Of them all, not one was printed. This letter is in response to the views expressed in the last issue concerning the state of *Doctor Who* today. I am responding to the letter written by British attorney Andrew Beech which appeared first in the *London Daily Mail*. Mr. Beech is rather outspoken with his opinion of *Doctor Who* and the newest Doctor Sylvester McCoy. He is quick to blast what he calls "pantomime antics" being performed by the McCoy Doctor. The "regenerated buffoon" is making a "cheap joke" of the character, he says. That I find rather interesting because it sounds exactly like the sort of useless whining that countless so-called "fans" engage in every time someone who doesn't fit their concept of the perfect Doctor is chosen for the role.

Mr. Beech, however, goes beyond the limitations of ordinary bellyaching. He has the unmitigated gall to condemn Tom Baker's period as the Doctor as too long, Davison's Doctor as "a watered down character", and Colin Baker as a "ham".

Mr. Beech also takes an entire paragraph to describe the many honored and revered individuals comprising his lot (the DWAS), as if his opinions are more qualified than those of others.

Today, I am hearing two reports on the state of *Doctor Who*. One seems to predict its death, the other declares it alive and well and doing better than ever. We are being showered with accounts of the newest Doctor's rejection, while John Nathan-Turner continues to spout his cheery accounts of the newest episodes.

If the Doctor fades from our screens, it will be a very sad event, to be seen as the greatest waste the science-fiction community will ever know. Programs meet their doom because they run out of material and lose audience appeal. This can not happen to the Doctor, a character who has all eternity and the infinity of space to explore, and thirteen lives in which to do it.

If it becomes necessary to establish an enemy common to all fans of *Doctor Who*, I can think of one no better suited for that purpose than BBC controller Michael Grade. He is the single greatest threat to *Doctor Who* today. He refuses to recognize fans of the program as a legitimate market, calling them a plethora of names while he institutes restrictions upon the program that would destroy any other show. Remember, it was he who fired Colin Baker for no other reason than his close-minded decision that three years is as long as one should portray the Doctor. It was also done while ignoring the fact that Colin had not worked for eighteen months due to a halt in production that was Grade's doing in the first place!

Of all the disappointing events of late, the one I find most contemptible is the clamor and complaining generated by the new Doctor's appearance. I am not a lawyer or a doctor or a barrister. I do not hold a degree that I use to make my opinions appear more meaningful. I am merely a college student who happens to enjoy the adventure and escapism of a science-fiction program that knows no bounds. And yet, as I sit here I cannot believe that no one has realized that nobody is an authority on *Doctor Who*. The character, by virtue of the very nature, so transcends the limitations of definition that it doesn't matter if his accent is British or Scottish. It makes no difference what he looks like or whether he is serious or quirky.

There are qualities inherent every incarnation of the Doctor which define his essence, but there is no way to properly define the person.

If there is one point on which Mr. Beech and I agree, it is that *Doctor Who* does not need glitz and glitter to draw its audience. John Nathan-Turner did much to boost the appearance of *Doctor Who* on the surface. This is evident by the marked change in the atmosphere of the program starting with Tom Baker's last season. Over the years, however, I feel that the quality of the writing, the magical web that is usually spun around the Doctor, has suffered with the apparently increased budget for "tinsel."

It really is not necessary. We all found *Doctor Who* quite enjoyable despite the cheesy special effects.

In conclusion, there are qualities about the Doctor which appeal to us all. Some are constants and can be found in all of the incarnations. Others are peculiar only to one actor and his portrayal and are approved or disapproved of depending upon an individual's preference. However, if people aren't willing to accept a new face and personality, then the Doctor is in danger of one day dematerializing forever. Nicholas Courtney's Brigadier said of the Doctor, "Wonderful chap-all of them." Let us try to remember the truth of that statement.

*Doctor Who* has graced the science fiction screen for twenty-five years. If we let him be, he will easily live another twenty-five.

By

Troy Thomas  
St. Louis, MO

Hey-ya kids, take it easy on Andy; he is a lawyer, y'know! Anywho...the good news is, Michael Grade is no longer with the BBC: Three cheers! He's with the competition now, probably screwing up their best programs (maybe not). Oh well, good riddance to bad rabbits. And hey, what's the matter with a little glitz? I mean, look at me! What's wrong with glitz if the characters and stories are good? We're headed into the Twenty-First Century boys and girls; this ain't black and white T.V. We're talking BBC Television... state of the art capabilities. If you've got it, flaunt it!

Believe me, one of JNT's strong suits is budget; he wouldn't do anything to harm his precious budget (I know because he wanted me and Roger Rabbit to make a special guest appearance this season, but wouldn't cough up the extra dough our agents wanted). Yeah, magic ain't got nuthin' to do with "tinsel".

The quality in the writing goes from the writers brain to his/her hand. Maybe some writing has suffered some, but looking back (speaking strictly about "glitz", mind you), I love the "glitz" progression from Doctor to Doctor. Like it's totally necessary so as not to get stuck in a time warp, know what I mean?

Dear Doctor Frog,

Hope this letter finds you happily still jumping around the cosmos. In fact, I hope this letter finds you, period! Where have you been and why haven't you been in the Times?

I felt really bad when I heard my fellow Whovians in Tampa and Portland lost the Doctor in their airwaves. But then, I felt really, really bad when I lost him on mine. WGBH Channel 2 in Boston has faithfully carried *Doctor Who* for eight years now and has suddenly taken the program off the air. I can hardly believe this has happened to supposedly one of the most powerful PBS stations in America.

Why? How? What can we do about it? Should we boycott the station; make nasty calls? Seriously, I'm a child-adult who's had his eight year fix taken away and I feel miserable. Please help.

A devout fan,

Jimmy Nathanson  
Boston, Mass.

Ah, those fans... I love 'em! First, don't boycott the station. Remember, WGBH-TV is one of the premier PBS stations in the country and they bring you fabulous programming: *Nova*, *American Experience*, *Victory Garden* and my favorite, *Sesame Street*...to name a few. And surely you're above making nasty phone calls and have better things to do with your time... don't you?

I heard this from a fly on the wall at Channel 2 (in Boston) and the fact is, they just couldn't come to financial terms with Lionheart (you've heard of those hearts from Lion, haven't you?). There's only so much of a budget for non-PBS produced programming and *Doctor Who* keeps going up in price and I think there was also something about not being able to just purchase the new series without having to buy two more runs of Tom Baker!!

Well, the fly said, all things considered, WGBH decided not to re-new their contract and thus *DOCTOR WHO* would be removed from the powerful Massachusetts air waves. I know how



Continued From Page 2

upset you must feel; I was so upset at the horrible news this cute, juicy little fly brought me... I ate him!

Now, there is a new, very capable and I'm told bright Program Director coming to WGBH. May I suggest you write a letter to him and urge more negotiations with Lionheart (in fact the rest of the country might even write a letter to him because WGBH-TV is so powerful in the PBS community, other stations may follow suit). Pledge your support to the station (you are a member I trust) and tell him how important **Doctor Who** is to the area. His name is Kevin Harris, Program Director, WGBH-TV, 125 Western Avenue, Boston, MA 02134.

Dear Doctor Frog,

I have been to many conventions where there have been guests from the **Doctor Who** series there. In fact, I have met all the living Doctors and even the late, great Patrick Troughton. You (or your human counter-part) are the only Doctor I've never met. Why is it that Tom Baker does not do conventions? When the question was put to Mr. Troughton, all he could say was, "it's a wonderful fraternal feeling we Doctors share, even though we poke fun at each other all the time. I don't understand why Tom chooses not to be involved".

I would really like to meet you one day and I'm sure there are others who share the same feeling. Please come out of seclusion from **Doctor Who** fandom.

Sincerely,

Chi-Chi Wang  
Los Angeles, CA

Dear Chi-Chi,

I hesitate to speak for Tom because as you note, I'm only his frog counter-part. I can tell you that DWFC has an entire file of letters written to Bakers' agent that have not ever been answered! This leads one to believe there is a real problem with his agent; quite possibly thinking the image is not good for Tom's career (ribbit-ruubbish, I say).

In addition to this, there have, in fact, been conventions that Tom Baker has been part of (mostly put on by Spirit of Life in Chicago) and he charges a pretty penny to be a guest. Perhaps other convention promoters shy away from him because of the money involved. I think Tom likes the fans; at least he's been very, very nice at the conventions I've hopped to see. There was one in San Jose (Timecon) he came to for free and was a joy; however, there was another he came to in Boston and was paid a fortune where he was outright rude! How do you figure that? I think he's just ill-advised by his agent (from my point of view, she's got fat...ankles, anyhow!). May I suggest you take the second best avenue and ring my agent?

On a more serious note, in behalf of the Doctor Who Fan Club of America, who plans to continue convention activity in 1989 (as you will read in this issue), I would like to invite Tom to a DWFC sponsored convention. Just call me, Tom, and I'll make all the proper arrangements: 303-293-2228; ask for Doctor Frog!

Dear Whoquarters,

I have read what Mr. Beech has written. I have read what Roger Craft has written.

I have read what-ever the name of the kid from Australia who was the President of their fan club wrote (you know, the one who saw Colin Baker's "Twin Dilemma" and began saying, "I can't go on...!") Additionally, I've read what Gary Levy has written in his Doctor Who Bulletin gossip magazine. I feel very sorry for these boys who obviously have deep-rooted inferiority complexes and seem to have totally missed the point of **Doctor Who**.

I am an American who happened to be fortunate enough to have been living in London through the sixties. I have been watching and taping **Doctor Who** since the very first episode, when my Doctor, William Hartnell first graced the tube.

Although I have moved around the globe, I've always managed to keep up with my Timelord. I have seen each Doctor's first episodes. I have watched, disliked, liked, and finally gotten used to each incarnation's little idiosyncrasies. I have grown up with **Doctor Who** and all the controversy that has always surrounded the series.

Anyone who is or has been into **Doctor Who** can't help but become involved in the controversy, including myself. I remember being outraged when Troughton first regenerated into the Doctor. Hartnell always has been and always will be my Doctor. However, there is more to **Doctor Who** than who my Doctor is, or who your Doctor is, or even what the new Doctor is like. All that is really not the point of **Doctor Who**.

Recently, I saw the very first Sylvester McCoy version of the Doctor. My effigy will probably be hanged by those boys who are die-hard Pertwee fans or those ladies who are googlie-eyed for Tom Baker but I have to say McCoy's first story "Time and the Rani", is the strongest first ever. Period. While there were some unfortunate "loop-holes", shall we say, because the weakness of the regeneration, the story was hot and McCoy played it like he was an old pro. The costuming was brilliant and, while I really didn't care much for the incidental music, it was new, it was happening! I found Doctor #7 to be cunning, compassionate, quick with his mind and tongue and feet! While his costume is totally off the wall, really, what does one wear while travelling through time, space and society in a little blue box? McCoy and his Doctor are real cerebral goof-balls and I love it. The new Doctor has brought a wonderful humour and put the fun back to the series (if that's what you're looking for) and upholds the terrific entertainment level that has never left **Doctor Who** in 25 years.

And that, my fellow Whovians, is the point.

I feel (I hope) **Doctor Who's** future is secure, for through all the controversy, it is still wonderful entertainment!

Sincerely yours,

Dylan Forbes  
USA

Dear Dylan,

As you may know, the BBC has always been known for quality programming throughout the world: both television and radio.

Up until the Michael Grade era, Auntie Beeb would have rather produced programs that a few million people absolutely adored and watched (like Masterpiece Theater, Upstairs-Downstairs, **Doctor Who**, etc.) rather than produce a program that ten million people kind of liked and sort of watched; like Wheel of Fortune. Quality entertainment has always been their forte: You are a man of obvious taste and depth. Although I personally have my own thoughts about Doctor Ferret, you undoubtedly get the point!

Who's yours,  
Doctor Frog  
Gullifry

## CTIME CAPSULE TO BE OPENED...

A time capsule is going to be opened in Austin, Texas at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center! Of course, the event won't actually take place until sometime in June 2088.

Connie Crouch spearheaded the event. She gathered artifacts from the **Doctor Who** series, from the WHO production office, memorabilia from collectors, books, etc. from fans, and merchandise relating to the series. She and her group of merry Whovians then ceremoniously placed a letter in the capsule, addressed to the future...hopefully future fans of **Doctor Who**! The letter explained what all the contents were about (imagine their delight at the **Doctor Who** Thermodynamic button) and a brief senario about what the Doctor is all about.

All in all, it was good fun and a good story for the media. Unfortunately, the local PBS affiliate, KLRU-TV still will not be renewing their contract for the **Doctor Who** series for lack of funds for the price of the show.

## The Lion FEASTS On It's Young

### THE LION FEASTS ON IT'S YOUNG

Great Rassilon's spirit, that is a horrible sounding title! But it's true. 'Twas late in November, Earth year 1988 (close to the Silver Anniversary of you know **Who**) and the new King of the Jungle strutted into Lionheart's main (and now only) offices in New York City. "Lions and Lioness", said the King, "we're a flop. Even lowly fan clubs laugh at us. **Doctor Who** is being cancelled all around us. We need a change and you all are fired!" No more Frank Miller, President; no more Ray Krafft, Vice President; no more Brian Sloman, in charge of special projects and **Doctor Who**. Oh well, fear not. There will be new Lions coming out of the jungle, ready to sharpen claws and feast on television stations, conventions, fans and yes, fan club presidents. Since the Doctor Who Fan Club of America began in October of 1981 (officially March 1982, but secretly in '81) there have been over fifteen "Lions" that have come and gone (even a Lioness or two!). Pity.

Hopefully, the new Lions will see the light through the jungle trees. Hopefully they will understand what makes **Who** tick in America...it's us, all of us. It's a self-perpetuating, self-promoting entity. As for DWFC, we're thankful to be a part of it and (as usual when a new regime comes in) we'll welcome them and offer any assistance we can possibly give that will help **Doctor Who**. We hope the new Lion wants to play nice, but if not...



For all you Peter Davison fans...Peter is doing a series called "Albert Campion" set in the 1930's and moving on. He is the main character, Albert Campion, who is sort of a mixture between Sherlock Holmes and Ms. Marple. The series is based on the many books written by Margery Allingham (she wrote from 1933 to 1966). There are two, one hour films for each of Allingham's books. Peter will just be finishing book number 4 by December of '88 (this means there must be lots more to be shot next year). For you, buffs of British film, Timothy West and Andrew Burt are regulars in the series. Channel 2 (WGBH-TV) in Boston has purchased the series and will begin its run October of '89. Undoubtedly, other PBS affiliates will follow suit, however; a call or letter to your local PBS program director letting him/her know of "Albert Campion" will help.

Lastly, Peter's "A Very Peculiar Practice" made such a hit with the Brits that re-runs began on BBC1 November 7, 1988! As most of you know, re-runs are not the norm for BEEB.

### WHOVIAN TIMES

DOCTOR WHO FAN CLUB OF AMERICA'S  
NEWSLETTER



The Whovian Times is published and printed for the soul pleasure of **Doctor Who** fans everywhere although other people may read the Whovian Times as well. However, no portion of this newsletter may be reprinted, reproduced, or sold without the express written approval of an officer of the Doctor Who Fan Club of America, Inc. We would like to thank everyone who wrote, worked or contributed to this issue (Colin Baker, Jeremy Bentham, P. Watkins, John Mahoney), Whoquarter's Staff, all the write-ins and our Charter Chapters to name a few. We would furthermore like to thank all the PBS affiliates who continue to carry the **Doctor Who** series and pledge our support in any way possible. Hoping your holiday season is and always will be a happy, healthy and prosperous one.

All the very best,

CHAD  
Chad Roark

Ron  
Ron Katz  
CO-FOUNDERS, DWFC, INC.





HIGH FASHION AND ICE HOT...THE REAL MCCOY

Just a few short words regarding the 25th Season: By the time you read this publication, the twenty-fifth season will have passed. As you have read from Jeremy Bentham's article, the season opener, "Remembrance of the Daleks" was a memorable one. However, at the time Jeremy sent his article to us, he had only seen two (of the four) episodes. "Remembrance" now stands firmly as a classic **WHO** and undoubtedly the strongest season opener ever (not just my opinion). Basic story line: two menacing (and separate) forces of Daleks show up in London, November 1963, looking for The Hand of Omega (a Time Lord artifact used by Gallifrey's Solar Engineer, Omega). Somehow, the Doctor had it but lost it in Foreman's scrap yard! The two factions of Daleks vie for the artifact while the Doctor holds off the army from shooting at, and distracting the Daleks. Lots of action, and the Daleks are chilling as ever (partly due to the evil Dalek voices of John Leeson, Roy Shelton, Royce Mills and the incomparable Brian Miller).

"The Happiness Patrol" was the second story to be produced but the last to air. The WAY-OFF-THE-WALL story everything from painting the TARDIS pink to the seven foot licorice "Candy Man". "Happiness" was filmed entirely in the studio and is about the Terra Alpha Colony where happiness is the absolute law! Mind boggling.

"Silver Nemesis" is a one part, ninety-minute-type-special that aired on Doctor Who's birthday, November 23, 1988 (his Silver Anniversary, as it were). Everyone we know in the UK was an attendee at some party that night, drinking in this wonderfully conceived story. It is set in England, both present day and in the year 1638. The Cybermen are back, but like never before. Really there's only one word to describe the new Cybermen: menacing, ornery, vicious, mean and ruthless! They even look more shiny and metallic than ever before, not to mention they've re-toughened up a bit and are a bit more impervious to things like bullets! Their Cybership (set at Greenwich Gas Works) is also spectacular. The story revolves around a statue called Nemesis, which resides at Windsor Castle in the present. There is more than meets the eye with Nemesis as the statue turns out...to have a bit of a story behind it. Arundel Castle doubles as Windsor Castle and Mary Reynolds doubles as the Queen. This story never hit the studio, as it was shot strictly on location.

We don't know much about "The Greatest Show In the Galaxy" other than it has four episodes and is considered the real oddball story of the last Season. It was filmed last (on location at Warmwell Quarry in Dorset in May), but was second to air. The studio work was done throughout June.

Stay Tuned!

## A BRIEF NOTE FROM...

# WHO

## QUARTERS

From Whoquarters

Well, as you can see by the newsletter you are holding in your hand, we're not as rich or flamboyant as we used to be; still don't judge the book by its cover. We're just as hot as we ever were and we're getting hotter. In our last issue, we finally had our word with Lionheart and certain other parties. Getting that off our chest, plus recent events and regenerations, let's leave that behind us and move forward. So for all those who we have driven insane, or to the unemployment lines, or who simply grew so jealous of the Doctor Who Fan Club of America; they hate us, we forgive you.

Recent events: sent a letter to all the fan club members (past and present) from Chicago. Doctor Who Fandom really took off there and Chicago Whovians became the most spoiled in the galaxy with more conventions and celebs than anywhere...down-right jaded! Then poof- a WHO drought. We asked them what we could do to revive Doctor Who Fandom and asked the old members to renew their affiliation with DWFC. We thought we would get hundreds of letters back asking us to take a short walk off a long pier and to take them off our mailing list! Eureka: what we found was genuine interest in an incredible 20% + response in renewal (the national average for such a mailing piece is 1-3%). WHO is not dead; he was just taking a little snooze. So the next obvious question is:

WILL THE DOCTOR WHO FESTIVAL TOUR RETURN?

The answer is...No! For the past year and a half, we have been thinking what could we do to top our own Festivals? There were obvious things we could do, but frankly, we want to really top ourselves, as well as everything that's in the marketplace now, or ever was. You see, the Doctor Who Festivals were (along with thousands of others) great. But one day shows aren't enough. Are they? (In the Chicago questionnaire they say no; 2-3 days). Then we started to go to other conventions...alot; both science fiction and other types of events. Ideas started to formulate. Questions came rolling in with brilliant ideas of what fans want. (By the way, if you have any bright ideas, we are open to suggestions).

It became apparent the Doctor Who Festivals could run in conjunction with other science fiction entities, as long as it was done right! The conventions (or conferences) have to be run by fans, for fans (much to the Doctor Who Bulletin's shagrin, we are fans, have always been and always will be...DWB accused us of being in it for a quick buck!! Great Rassilon's ghost Gary, I'm still driving my beat up '73 Ford!). Anywho, we are getting in touch with other National fan clubs and forming a new corporation specifically to run science fiction AND science related conventions together.

To date, we are working with Paramounts official national Star Trek Fan Club and with the National Lucasfilm Fan Club. The possibilities are endless and if we sound excited it's because we are. Excitement and the Fun Factor are back and Universe...watch out.

As this newsletter goes out to you (that is if the darn thing ever goes out!), we have booked our first show. As you will note (by the advertisement in this issue), the First Intergalactic Expo will be held in Chicago on March 10, 11 and 12, 1989. Our guests will range from science fiction celebrities (Colin Baker, Jonathan Frakes, Terry Nation, Kevin Pollak) to speakers and exhibits from NASA. We have booked over twenty artists and several authors. It's an awesome undertaking and quite possibly the most exciting endeavor we've ever been part of. We're expecting people from all over the United States and Canada; we've even heard from some friends in London, Tokyo and Edinburg who are coming! If it's not too far for you, we hope you can make it too. If you are interested in finding out exactly what is going to happen (where, when, how much, etc.) before everyone else, send a postcard with your name and address clearly printed onto it to: Out of This World Productions, PO Box 6198, Cherry Creek Station, Denver, Colorado 80206.

As we said, we are very enthusiastic and ready for a rip-roarin' convention. We hope you are, too. We feel this will be great and uplifting for Doctor Who in America. Although many people think Doctor Who is dying out, we understand it is simply settling into what will become a normal, quite steady entity. We hope you are a part of it.

May I remind you our new hours are 10 AM - 4 PM Monday thru Friday (MST). Our telephone number is 303-293-2228. We will be closed from December 22 to January 2, 1989. We wish all of you and yours a very happy and healthy holiday season and a most prosperous New Year. As a great and chubby philosopher always says: "stay tuned".

Yours truly,

Chad Roark & Ron Katz  
Co-founders/DWFC



# NEW BOOKS From TARGET

Nearly every Doctor Who story ever filmed has now been novelized by Target Books. Now, they will begin writing stories for the ones which never made it across the little screen! They will start in 1989 with Graham Williams' story, "Nightmare Fare", which was actually a sequel to "The Celestial Toy-maker". "Nightmare" was supposed to have aired in season twenty-three, but we all know what happened there. Keep an eye out for these new books, we're guessing they'll really be something fresh and rich.



NEW COLUMN FOR WOVIAN TIMES VOLUME 19?

WE DOUBT IT...BUT WHO KNOWS?

Hello Doctor Who fans and friends. I would like to thank the producers of the Whovian Times for allowing me this space. Actually, I've wanted my own column for quite a while, but they wouldn't give it to me. Why they gave one to that bug-eyed-ego-maniac Doctor Frog, I'll never know; he can't even hold my cape! Anywho...the way one gets ones own column here is to invite letters. So, I'm looking for letters from people out there regarding my era...Doctor #3. Please feel free to comment, criticize, ask questions about writers, directors, anything pertinent to the Doctor Who series from "Spearhead in Space" through "Planet of the Spiders". Your letters will be a start to our forum; from there, we will be able to thoroughly dissect the most brilliant era of all time for Doctor Who... MINE!

Write all letters to:  
DOCTOR DOG  
PO BOX 6198  
CHERRY CREEK STATION  
DENVER, CO 80206



Eureka...the Beeb has found three more episodes to "The Ice Warriors". They had previously found one of the episodes; now there are only two episodes which remain missing. Episodes and stories turn up in the strangest places: from fans' private collections, the basements of churches, television stations, even behind filing cabinets at the BBC. Where next will WHO pop up?



OUT OF THIS WORLD PRODUCTIONS  
PRESENTS  
**THE  
FIRST  
INTERGALACTIC**



WHERE FACT MEETS FICTION

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, USA, EARTH  
(Photon-Chicago/South Expo Center ... I 294 & I 80)

MARCH 10, 11 & 12, 1989



COLIN BAKER

**SPECIAL CELEBRITY GUESTS:**

Colin Baker — Doctor Who  
Nichelle Nichols — Star Trek  
Terry Nation — Blakes 7 & Doctor Who  
Kevin Pollak — Willow



NICHELLE NICHOLS

**HONORED GUEST SPEAKERS:**

Jane Cochran from NASA  
Bill Crell from NASA  
Terry Erdmann from Paramount  
Richard Arnold from Paramount  
Dr. Jagdish P. Davé, Ph.D - Fulbright Scholar

**TICKET INFORMATION:**

**PLAN A:** Three Day Pass \$25.00

Includes: Main Events Auditorium (either Saturday or Sunday; please note), autograph privileges, priority seating, all displays, entrance to all auxiliary speakers and rooms, unlimited Photon (laser-tag) play, entrance to Intergalactic Trading Company (dealer's room), videos, art show and more as we add on.

**PLAN B:** One Day Pass \$15.00

Includes: All of the above for any day (March 10, 11, 12, 1989).

**PLAN C:** Special Friday Night Masquerade Ball \$5.00

Includes: This unique, outrageous and fun party will be a mixer and a warm-up for the weekend! All attendees are requested to wear some sort of costume. It will be held inside the incredible Photon playing arena; a futuristic look, complete with special lighting and special effects! A special announcements will be made by March 1st as to WHO the band will be! Stay tuned...

**PLAN D:** Saturday Night Intergalactic Cabaret \$12.00

The party of the 80's! Fans and celebrities, along with special guests will mingle together in an atmosphere not unlike the famous Star Wars nite-club scene. To make things even more spicy, our celebrity guests will entertain you like you never imagined. Nichelle Nichols will sing, dance, and dazzle; Kevin will make you laugh so hard, we suggest you bring an extra set of clothes; Colin Baker and Terry Nation will do things you wouldn't believe gentlemen of their stature would think off! Get ready for this...and order tickets at once. When the publicity gets out for the Intergalactic Cabaret, half of Chicago will want to buy tickets!

**PLAN E:** THE WORKS \$42.00

INCLUDES: All of the above!

NOTE: As time goes by we will add more speakers and events. Some of the subjects we will cover will be: Robotics, rocket building, crystals (re-discovered), psychic mediums, science fiction writing and movie making, special effects, exploration of inner-space, computers: (then, now and the future), Japanese Animation, science fiction art and ghost hunting. Main Events programming will be televised in other areas of the EXPO.

**FEATURING:**

**A SHORT PEEK AT THE FOLLOWING MOVIES**

(To be released in June '89)

Star Trek V: The Final Frontier

Indy III

Batman

The Abyss

**SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS:**

Frank Kelly Freas - Star Trek  
Tim Hildebrandt - Star Wars  
Gail Bennett - Doctor Who  
Vincent C.L. Jö-Nés

Time is of the essence: make your arrangements now.

The First Intergalactic Expo is not just another convention; it's the beginning of a new era where, indeed fact, will meet up with fiction. From Doctor Who to Star Trek to NASA (and way beyond), the EXPO is a co-effort of many factions. On behalf of them all, as well as our distinguished guests, we invite you to join us for the most memorable and important event.

The EXPO will be a unique presentation of many facets from the world of science fiction writers, stars, motion picture studios, authors, special effects coordinators and others. We will also present a close-up view from our guests speakers from NASA about these subjects: *Technology Utilization* (space benefits, spinoffs and what it means to society); *A New Look at Earth and Our Solar System* (life in the Universe and Planetary Exploration); and *Large Space Structures* (The Space Station, the next logical step for life beyond Earth). These subjects will be enhanced by exclusive NASA film-footage, videos and slides! Bridging the narrowing gap of fact and fiction will be several speakers throughout the EXPO discussing the paranormalcies of our own planet and ourselves.

We anticipate a large crowd from all over the galaxy! We have blocked off hundreds of hotel rooms and can get you special low rates. Autograph privileges and Main Events seating assignments will be awarded on a priority basis. That is to say, the 100th ticket buyer will receive their autographs, meet the celebrities before and have better seats than the 1000th ticket buyer. Also, the special Friday night masquerade ball and Saturday night Intergalactic Cabaret and Party are both limited to the number of people we can accommodate. You can call (303) 293-2228 (between 9 AM and 5 PM Mountain Standard Time Monday thru Friday) and charge your tickets and/or hotel rooms with your Visa or Mastercard. Also, tickets are on sale at all Ticketron outlets in the galaxy. For additional information, call the Chicago/South Expo Center at (312) 331-4265.

If you're looking for something fantastic to do this March, or would like to be part of an Out-Of-This-World-Type event, don't miss the FIRST INTERGALACTIC EXPO.

Please make checks payable to: Out Of This World Productions. Send check, money order or credit information to: Out Of This World Productions, P.O. Box 6198, Denver, Colorado 80206. Your ticket confirmation will be acknowledged immediately.

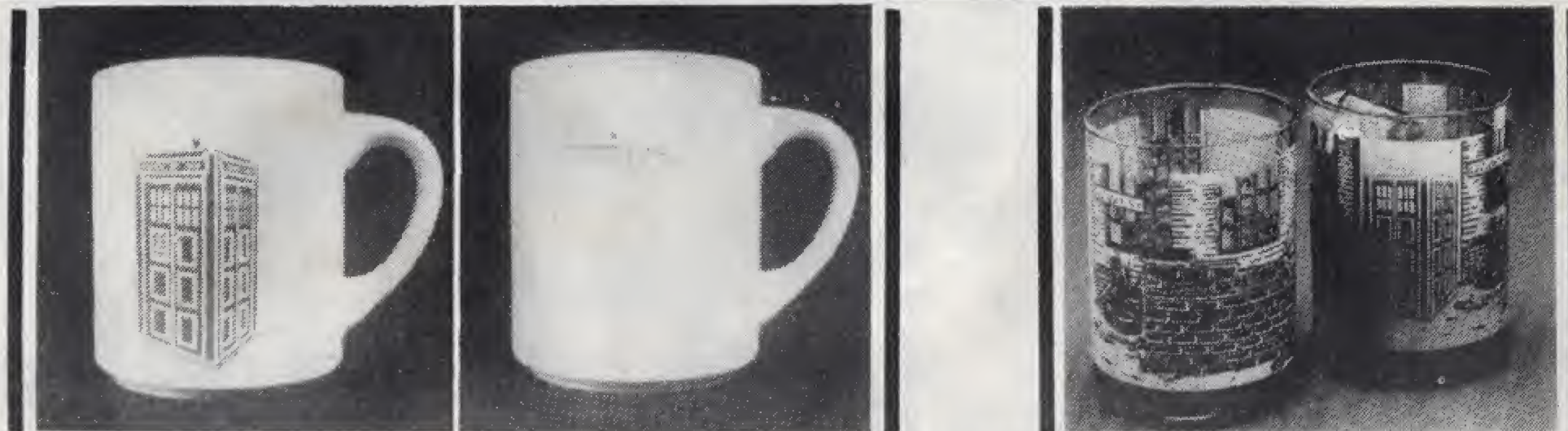


# DOCTOR WHO DRY

## THE POLICE BOX STORY

Once, in the land of the Great Britain and all over that part of the world, there were these little blue boxes everywhere. These little blue boxes (which resemble phone booths somewhat) were called Police Boxes. They could be used to lock up nasty criminals, policemen could make telephone calls from them and everyone in the land of Britain generally loved them. Then one day, a special Police Box (called a TARDIS) appeared in a London scrap yard... and then it disappeared! Impossible? you say. It really happened. The TARDIS appeared and disappeared, frequently. And then, do you realize what happened? ALL THE POLICE BOXES DISAPPEARED!! Nearly every Police Box on Earth just vanished! Where have they gone? WHO KNOWS. In commemoration to the Police Boxes (wherever they may be), we want to share our humble Police Box line with you. Hope you enjoy it.

## DO YOU BELIEVE IN MAGIC?



The Police Box is perhaps the most mysterious structure of the century. Imagine Police Boxes all over the world, appearing – disappearing everywhere! Well, that's what's happening right now: people all over the planet are buying the Police Box mug and the Police Box glass. Hot liquid into the mug... the Police Box disappears; cold liquid into the glass... a Police Box appears! It really works just like that and if you look on the order form (under style #7045) you'll find you can take advantage of this special offer and buy this combo for \$17.50 and free postage. Offer expires on the night of the full moon in July (7/18/89). Individually sold items #7040 and #7044. 2-3 weeks delivery.



**POLICE BOX SHIRT:** White cotton shirt with that wonderfully esoteric image of the Police Box imprinted on the front (item 5730); or if you want it with the full colour Doctor Who logo imprinted on the back, you can have it that way too (item 5731). Either way, you really ought to order a new TARDIS shirt today. They're in stock and will be shipped out within 2-4 weeks.



### POLICE BOX MODEL KIT

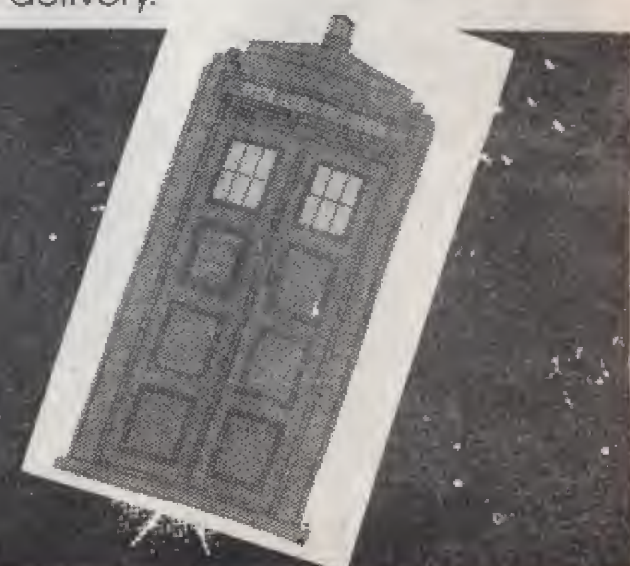
This kit is sensational. If you're into models, this one won an award in Model Magazine for design and Authenticity. It's easy to put together, too. Has anyone seen Verity Lambert's new science fiction movie "Morons From Outerspace"? It's hysterical, see it. Even those bozos could put this baby together! And think how great it will look when it's done. 4"x4"x8". Item 7001. Allow 4 weeks delivery.



### POLICE BOX KEY FOB

Now, we've made this item a skosh bigger so we could fit in a larger battery. Order this completely necessary item today (item #7041), give us about two weeks and you'll be glad you did.

The Police Box pin is too hard to photograph for this publication. Take our word for it though, any Whovian in their right mind, or their left one wouldn't be caught in public without their Police Box pin. No, order it now. Item #6993.



### POLICE BOX TOWEL

Item 7038. This is a new, heavier weight towel we're using. 30"x60" in size. They're very nice, large imprint of the mystical Police Box on one side. If you happen to be in England during the summer when everyone goes to Brighton Beach, you'll see Doctor Who fans everywhere lying on their Police Box towels (looks rather like the natives worshipping something). They sell for about \$35.00 in England – less to you when you order yours from this issue! 2-4 weeks delivery.

# OFFICIAL K-9 KLUB

If you purchase any of our K-9 items... you're in the Klub. K-9 is the most loved creature on Doctor Who. His popularity (at times) rivals the Doctors. He deserves more credit than he gets; he deserves his very own Klub. We have a great line of K-9 items and we're introducing the new K-9 mug! We do not have a photo to show you the mug, so let me explain it: We will be imprinting a platinum-chrome finished K-9 onto a black or midnight blue mug. It's really beautiful. 12 ounce mug will be used for the introductory offer. Item 7042.

Also, as we mentioned before, the cloisonee enamel pins do not photograph well in our newsletter, so you'll have to buy K-9's pin sight unseen. Item #6004.



### K-9 SHIRT

Item 1260 (adult) 1261 (youth). Great shirt and is now back in our line by popular demand. The shirt is (as usual) very high quality with K-9 imprinted with a magnificent silver metallic ink. Excellent for men, women, and children. Please allow 3-4 weeks delivery.

**STUFFED K-9 TOY**  
Look into that face... need we say more?



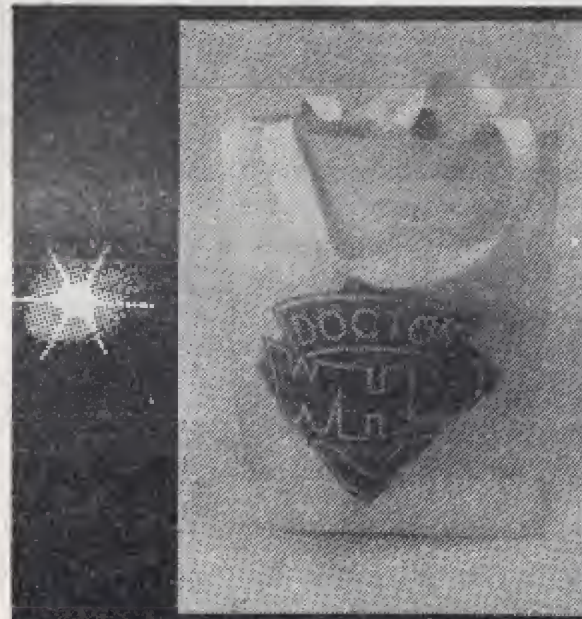
### SPECIAL 25% OFF

#### DOCTOR WHO TOTE BAG

Item 7020 is normally \$10.00. Until August 26th (official women's equality day) this tote will be offered for \$7.50 to DWFCFA members only. Tan canvas with full color logo imprinted on it. \$2.50 shipping and handling. 2-4 weeks delivery.

### DOCTOR WHO JACKET

Shown here as satin, however, we also carry a fine cotton-poly blend that we feel is even nicer. Your choice: they cost the same and both will take 4-6 weeks to ship; well worth the wait. Black, tan and white.





# GOODS CO. MAIL ORDER CATALOG 1989

## DOCTOR WHO PENS

We have several different pens to offer, so this is a random pick. We will ship the pen in the photo, while they last. Then we have all kinds of logo pens; we have the old favorite pen that says "This pen used to belong to the Doctor, now it belongs to one of his friends". They're all nice, moderately priced and of good quality. Item 8020. 2-3 weeks delivery.



## DOCTOR WHO POLO/GOLF SHIRT

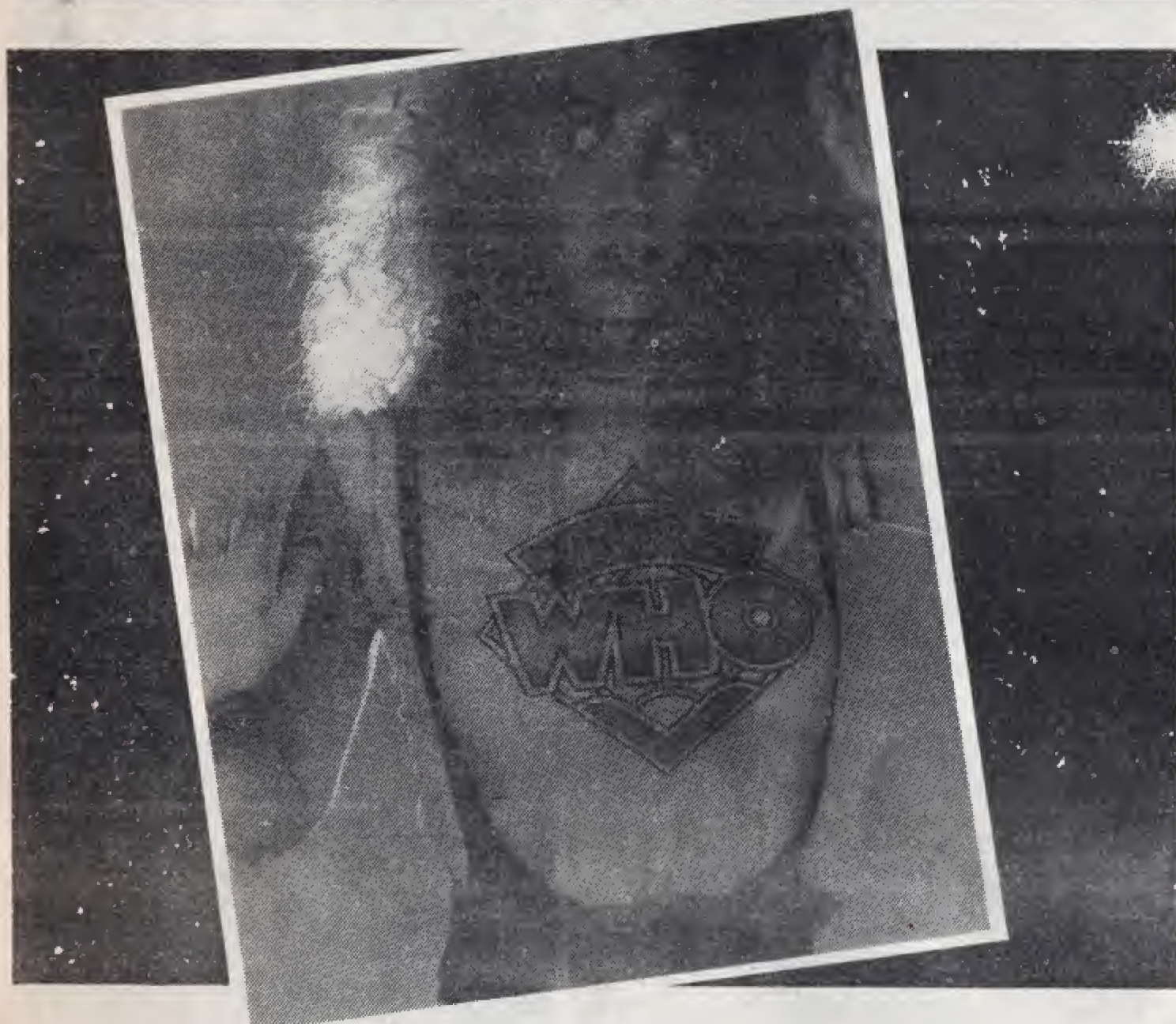
Chad wears his to all his business meetings! Ron wore his when he appeared on the Victory Garden Show. This is simply the most stylish shirt in our line; it's the most expensive one, too (this and the sweatshirt). It comes in white, black, dark blue, burgundy, red, kelly green and turquoise. Pick one, or all seven colors (be sure to mark which color(s) you prefer). Allow 3-5 weeks. Item 2230.

NOTE: Please do not forget to mark the size of any shirt order(s).



## DOCTOR WHO SHIRT

Ye olde stand by... at \$12.00 a pop, this is the shirt that 50,000 Whovians bought during the 80's. The nice thing about this shirt (as with all of our shirts, but, it seems, especially this one) is how long it lasts. They start to get broken-in after two years; mine are all of the five to seven year vintage! Comes in gold, navy, green, burgundy, royal, red and white. 3-5 weeks, item 5500.



THE DOCTOR WHO DRY GOODS COMPANY is our new mail order catalogue division. Even though the order form says 4-6 weeks, all items are in stock and our new system will (in most cases) cut that time in half! Our normally slow delivery has been on the road to recovery and has recovered! Try ordering anything herein and see what we mean.

DR. WHO DRY GOODS COMPANY

ORDER FORM

VOLUME 18

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ ORDER DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SHIP DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM -	QTY	SIZE	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	SHPG/ HDLG	ITEM TOTAL	SHPG TOTAL
1240			Timelord Shirt	13.00	2.25		
1260			K-9 Adult Shirt	12.00	2.25		
1261			K-9 Child Shirt	10.00	2.25		
1400			Diamond Logo Jacket	45.00	3.50		
1830			Diamond Logo 3/4 Sleeve Jersey	14.00	2.25		
1840			NEW Seven Doctors Shirt	15.00	2.25		
1850			NEW Seven Doctor 1/C Shirt	11.00	2.25		
1870			Full Color Diamond Logo Sweatshirt	20.00	3.00		
1880			NEW FC Diamond Logo Sweatpants	20.00	3.00		
1989			NEW Official DWFC Shirt	15.00	2.25		
2230			Diamond Logo Polo Shirts (Note Color)	20.00	2.25		
3510			Glow in the Dark Doctor Who Shirt	12.00	2.25		
5500			Diamond Logo Shirt (Specify Color)	12.00	2.25		
5710			SPECIAL Black Full Color Diamond Logo Shirt	15.00	2.25		
5730			Police Box Shirt	12.00	2.25		
5731			NEW TARDIS Shirt FC Logo on Back	15.00	2.25		
5757			NEW Doctor Who Niteshirt	15.00	2.25		
5758			Gallifrey Beach & Body Club Shirt	14.00	2.25		
5759			NEW University Of Gallifrey Shirt	14.00	2.25		
6000			OFFICIAL Doctor Who Quartz Watch	25.00	3.00		
6001			Diamond Logo Enamel Pin	5.00	.50		
6003			Police Box Enamel Pin	5.00	.50		
6004			K-9 Enamel Pin	5.00	.50		
6005			? Enamel Pin	5.00	.50		
6010			Neon Logo Enamel Pin	5.00	.50		
6022			Tom Baker Enamel Pin	6.00	.50		
6023			Colin Baker Enamel Pin	6.00	.50		
6024			Jon Pertwee Enamel Pin	6.00	.50		
6025			Peter Davison Enamel Pin	6.00	.50		
6026			William Hartnell Enamel Pin	6.00	.50		
6027			Patrick Troughton Enamel Pin	6.00	.50		
6028			2-Hearts Timelord	2/8.00	.50		
6029			Dalek Enamel Pin	5.00	.50		
6033			Sylvester McCoy Enamel Pin	6.00	.50		
6034			Giant Robot Enamel Pin	6.00	.50		
6045			Leela Enamel Pin	6.00	.50		
6046			Tardis Console Enamel Pin	6.00	.50		
6047			Cyberman Enamel Pin	6.00	.50		
6048			MY TARDIS Bumper Sticker	1.50	.50		
6049			DOCTOR WHO Bumper Sticker	1.50	.50		
7001			Metropolitan Police Box Model Kit	13.00	2.00		
7003			Stuffed K-9 Toy	45.00	6.00		
7005			Diamond Logo Wallet	5.00	1.00		
7009			Neon Logo Wallet	5.00	1.00		
7015			Doctor Who Apron	13.00	2.00		
7020			SPECIAL Doctor Who Tote Bag	7.50	2.50		
7025			Diamond Logo Cap	9.00	2.00		
7026			NEW Police Box Cap	7.00	2.00		
7038			Police Box Towel	18.00	3.00		
7040			Police Box Magic Mug	10.00	3.00		
7041			Full Color Diamond Logo Mug	10.00	3.00		
7042			Neon Logo Mug (Navy & Platinum)	7.00	3.00		
7043			NEW K-9 Mug	10.00	3.00		
7044			Police Box Magic Glass Tumbler	10.00	3.00		
7045			NEW Police Box Magic Glass/Mug Combo Special	17.50	FREE		
7046			Police Box Flash Light Key Fob	4.00	1.00		
8019			13 Boxes of Jelly Babies	15.00	5.00		
8020			NEW Doctor Who Pen	2.50	.75		

Make all checks and money orders payable to DWFC, Inc.

ITEM TOTAL

send all orders to:

7.1% Colorado Sales Tax

Doctor Who Fan Club of America  
CO Catalogue Division  
P.O. Box 6024  
Cherry Creek Station  
Denver, Colorado 80206

SHIPPING/HANDLING

GRAND TOTAL

\$

Phone orders are taken between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mountain Standard Time at (303) 293-2228, Monday thru Friday. We accept VISA or MASTERCARD orders either by phone, or (if you're using form), please fill out information below (please print) and mail in.

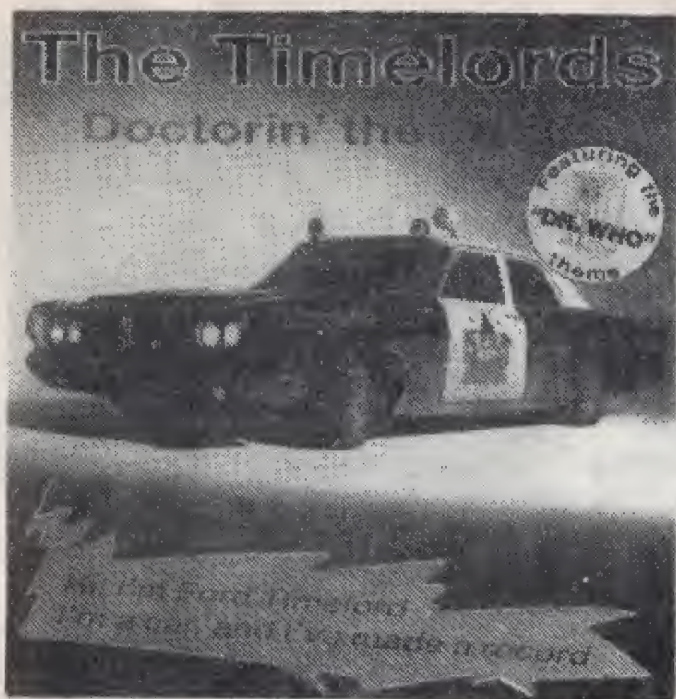
VISA \_\_\_\_\_ or MASTERCARD \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card as it reads \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Copies of this form are welcome.





#### Doctor Who Hits the Charts...

and the dance floor! A snappy little group called The Timelords has cut a record and a video tape called "Doctorin' The Tardis". It was number one on the charts in Great Britain for weeks and still is in the top ten! Seems as though the Brits love the Doctor any way they can get him!

"Doctorin' The Tardis" hit the USA with a smash, as well. Local radio stations and trendy discos from coast to coast are having a ball with it. If the rest of the country is playing it as much as the Denver, Boulder and Fort Collins stations are, you have most assuredly heard it. The song juxtaposes the theme music from the *Doctor Who* series with a reworking of Gary Glitter's 1972 hit "Rock and Roll Part 2". Where Glitter's song employed a chanted chorus of "Rock and roll, rock and roll", this one uses "Doctor Who-oo Doctor Who-oo". Tossed into the tune are some raspy Dalek voices shrieking "Exterminate-Exterminate". Also interspersed in the song is the sound of the Tardis, wheezing and groaning its familiar sound. The video features an old black and white American police car (supposedly a Timelord named Ford). Ford is chasing down a couple of old cheesy-looking, factory-reject-type of Daleks.

The name The Timelords is really a pseudonym for a group called the Jams, which is an acronym for Justified Ancients of MuMul. Actually, as it turns out, the Jams and all this incredible music are really two guys named Bill Drummond and Jimmy Cauty. The two musicians are well known in England for "sampling", which involves incorporating parts of recordings made by others into their own recordings. See what can happen when a couple of crazed Whovians get together? ("Doctorin' The Tardis" single is on a 12" disk).

#### ORDER FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

SEND \_\_\_\_\_ 12 DISK SINGLE(S)

RECORD  
\$7.95 EACH PLUS \$2.50  
SHIPPING/HANDLING

MAIL TO:  
DOCTORIN' THE TARDIS  
P.O. BOX 6198  
DENVER, COLORADO 80206  
— 2-4 WEEK DELIVERY —



Times tough for Baker? Not really...he's got his buddies and a good pot of tea to drink. Maybe now he'll agree to come to one of our shows...maybe not, though; the "Doc looks pretty happy, doesn't he?" Photo credits and thank you to Victor Blackman.

## Unearthly Ladies

THE FEMALE COM  
OF DOCTOR WHO

Among the most surprising findings of the readers' poll published in volume 17 of the Whovian Times is that, according to the sample, there are about twice as many adult female fans as adult male. Science fiction is, after all, traditionally a male genre, for science, a "hard" subject, requires the precise measurements and crystal-clear logic on which men are supposed to thrive. The protagonists of science are therefore usually men, and *Doctor Who*, despite its well-earned reputation for originality, has not overturned this fundamental tradition. Yet it has, at times, done a great deal to advance the position of women within the classic formula, a tendency that may explain the show's appeal to a group typically uninterested in sci-fi.

Created in the early 1960's, *Doctor Who* came in on the tail end of the post-World War II school of flying saucer, atomic radiation sci-fi. It therefore partook of that school's traditions: the protagonist was a male scientist, and women were present merely as targets of evil-doers' aggression. The Doctor, helped by a science teacher who was also male, did most of the deciding and acting, while the other companions, the Doctor's granddaughter and a woman who taught not science but the soft subject of history, did the screaming, the cringing in terror and falling victim to mostly male enemies.

Right from the start, however, *Doctor Who* ignored one of the revered customs of sci-fi. The females excited the protagonist to protect and ultimately to rescue them, but not to desire them. Alone among sci-fi heroes of the day, the Doctor survived without a love interest, nor were his enemies allowed to threaten his female companions in obviously sexual ways; the women could be captured, tied up, even wounded, but never — *Doctor Who* being a family show — so much as ogled.

A bit more unusual were the first female characters themselves. The Doctor's two female companions, the teenager Susan and her history teacher Barbara Wright, while providing traditional emotion and vulnerability, nevertheless did not descend to the pandering, passive voluptuousness seen so often in sci-fi movies of the early 1960's.



Instead, we were shown a preternaturally intelligent high school girl and — balancing this "unearthly child," as Susan was called — maternal school teacher of average accomplishments and expectations for the time. Susan challenged viewers with her boyish look and her skill at the boys' subject of science, while Barbara soothed viewers with her familiar motherly instincts and ladylike sensitivity.

These two, conflicting types — the unearthly child and the stereotypical young lady — have governed the make-up of the Doctor's female companions throughout the show's

twenty-five years. Although one type or other has usually dominated, their proportion has varied continually as new writers and new actresses have joined the show.



Initially, after the regular cast was pared down to just the Doctor and one companion, the more familiar, ladylike qualities took control. Jo Grant, for example, went far beyond Barbara in volatility and vulnerability, came nowhere near her in knowledge, and in miniskirt and gogo boots, was much more the conventionally attractive tv. star. The Doctor treated her with paternal condescension, never asking her for advice or help.



With Sarah Jane Smith, however, the unearthly child reasserted itself. Sarah Jane, as journalist, was given an initiative unseen in the preceding female companions. She questioned the Doctor intelligently, took a hand in uncovering and solving problems, and generally showed nerve. Yet she did not escape all Jo Grant's weaknesses: her initiative, so refreshing at first, usually ended by getting her into trouble, only to be rescued by the Doctor or the male staff of UNIT. Her anguished screams made *Doctor Who* history.

Much more progress was made with the Doctor's next companion, Leela, who stood as far above Sarah Jane in initiative as Sarah Jane had stood above Barbara. Probably nothing like Leela had been seen before on television. A warrior, she jumped into the physical side of problem solving. She carried a knife, leaped through windows, man-handled men and on at least one occasion she saved the Doctor's life with her blowgun. But even this Amazonian revelation bore marks of the opposite character. The show's writers, while giving her the most independent and challenging personality so far, also gave her the most revealing costume.

It seemed as if, in order to maintain a balance that the supposedly male sci-fi audience would accept, the writers felt that so strong a woman must be made all the more alluring physically.

After Leela, bracing in both action and spirit, the mannerly Romana seemed at first a return to mediocrity. But Romana challenged sci-fi stereotypes more subtly than had Leela. Fully clad, she did not give off the sexual signals that undermined Leela's independence; educated and even-tempered, she could not be dismissed as a freakish savage. Instead, she equalled the Doctor in every way: she could pilot the TARDIS, thwart attackers, and outsmart

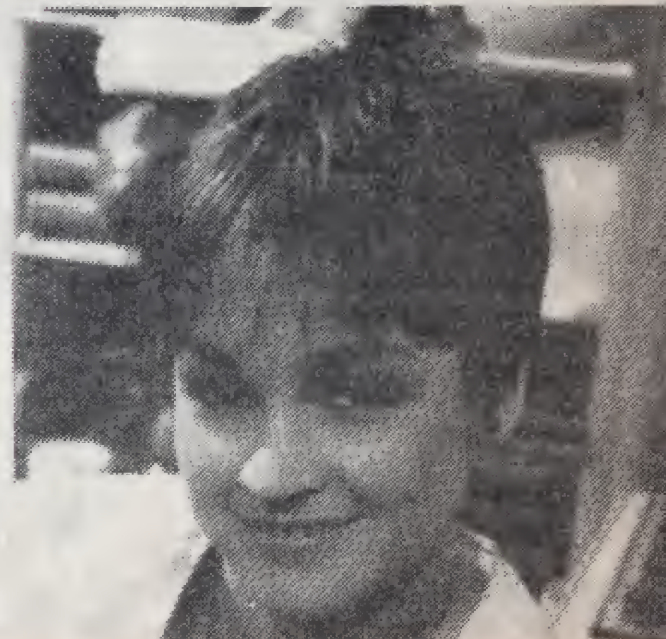


megalomaniacs as well as (often better than) the Doctor. Moreover, by not screaming or displaying her legs at every turn, she forced the audience to accept her intelligence and control without compromise. Of course, the tall, big-boned actress Mary Tamm, who first played Romana, made a more powerful image beside the Doctor than did the girlish Lalla Ward, but up to the end Romana remained a character of exemplary wisdom and ability. The unearthly child had grown up.



*Doctor Who's* elevation of the traditional female sci-fi role peaked with Romana. The writers seemed to lose heart after her. The next set of companions turned back to the early division of the unearthly child and the stereotypical young lady into two characters, the physician Nyssa keeping alive the former, the prospective stewardess Tegan reviving the latter.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE







Their successor, Peri, was yet more disappointing. Even if one looked only at her, it would have been obvious that the program was in trouble. With her the writers resorted to the baldest of stereotypes: she screamed, she babbled confusedly, she fell continually into danger, while her costumes rarely failed to show off her cleavage. The traditional approach was carried out in the plots as well, several of which had her sought as a bride by the villain, while the unearthly child aspect was simply given lip service, someone at some time mentioning that she was a doctor.



Fortunately, however, Peri has gone the way of her predecessors, taking with her, it seems, the cynicism that relied on such low tactics. Melanie, though another screamer, was not entirely helpless; she at least brought us up to the level of Sarah Jane Smith. And Ace, to judge from her debut, embodies another triumph for the unearthly child. She has brains and guts-the very qualities, in fact, that put *Doctor Who* a step above other sci-fi programs in the first place. Certainly the show is escapism, but its fans are discriminating escapists who thrive on creativity, not tired formula and empty gloss. I, for one, look forward to the day when the Doctor will regenerate as a woman.

By

John Paschetto  
Philadelphia Museum of Art  
Philadelphia, PA

## DOCTOR HOG



Hello Pork Fans. I thought as Doctor Frog had his column and Doctor Dog was asking for his; why not create my own? Yes, nice to see you. The thing is, you see, my column is going to be directed toward the more artistic and ambitious fans (of course, for the enjoyment of the less artistic and less ambitious fans as well).

Now, I know there are some good-to-brilliant producers of artistic endeavours out there and I wonder if you would like to share them and/or even, exploit them. For example: I have just watched some of the greatest, home-made *Doctor Who* videos I've ever seen. Really! A young chap from Renton, Washington named Ryan K. Johnson sent me four *Doctor Who* episodes and one "Star Trek-The Pepsi Generation"! They were brilliant. His first one, "The Wrath of Eukor" opens with my human counterpart regenerating into, of all things, a woman Doctor. It was wonderfully enjoyable. I'm positive you would like it too. I don't know if young John would like to market any of his videos, but he should. We're certainly going to ask his permission to show them in the **FAN VIDEO PRESENTS** room at this March's Conference in Chicago.

Now if there are other fan-made *Doctor Who* (or other science-fiction fantasy) videos out there, why not send me a copy? I will screen them and we'll do something with them in my column next issue. I just think other fans should share in, and enjoy them (in some way) as I have. I will review them, critique them and let you know where and how you can obtain them. Also, I will try to get them shown at some of the better conventions.

Likewise, I know there are some wonderful fanzines out there. Jean Airey has written some great pieces that I see on book shelves from Chicago to London. Maybe that could happen for you. Maybe not, but if you think other fans may be interested in your creation, why not give it a go. If you have a *Doctor Who* story you've written and would like to share it, send it to me. Mind you, it **must be typewritten** and must have your name and address on it.

There, for now I'm calling for video productions and short stories and fanzines. Next issue, I'll look for other art forms. But for now let's hear from our writers and video or film makers. I can't promise to make you famous, but you won't regret submitting your piece. Send all materials to: Doctor Hog, PO Box 6198, Cherry Creek Station, Denver, Colorado, 80206.

Until then (whenever that may be), don't eat too much bacon!

Cheerie Bye,

DH



I'VE BEEN  
WAITING  
SOOOO...  
LONG

A NOTE FROM  
**salamaster**



OK you snivelling, worthless Who-vians, I have some low-down dirt for you: John Nathan-Turner announced he was going to retire as producer of *Doctor Who* after this year. Naturally, the powers-that-bee at the Beeb prevented a clean break, so J N-T recently announced he would be back for the 26th season. Wanna know what I think is going to happen? Tough. Here it is anyhow... J N-T will start the season then (sort-of) step down and become Executive Producer (something like Barry Letts did) and make way for a new producer to come in under J N-T's wing. This would make for a nice transition. The new producer would be someone already within the BBC folds, preferably someone who knows something about *Doctor Who* and probably a quality producer with nothing to work on at present. Know who it is? Hiss-hiss-hiss; of course you do, that's why you've followed this column to this point: I, the one and only Salimaster, predicts the next producer for *Doctor Who* will be Terrence Dicks! Remember, you heard it from me.

## DOCTOR WHO DRY GOODS COMPANY

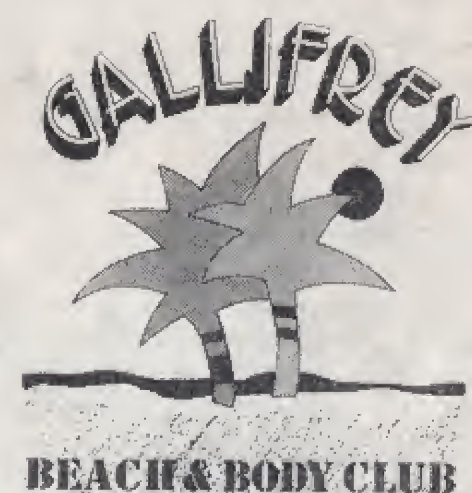
### SEVEN DOCTORS SHIRT

This fabulous new shirt comes two ways: Item 1840 is a full eight colored shirt and 1850 is a one color shirt; your choice. . Either way, you'll love this shirt; we think it's even nicer than the old Six Doctors shirt. 2-4 weeks delivery.



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USE ORDER FORM ON PAGE 7



# NEWS FROM GREAT BRITAIN



BY J. JEREMY BENTHAM

I find myself in a rare state of euphoria. I know it to be rare because I had to look it up in the dictionary to be sure of the spelling.

The reason, quite simply, is that, all of a sudden, *Doctor Who* has really perked up, and I mean REALLY perked up. It's almost as if, after years of meandering in the narrative wilderness, a key has been found to unlock, after such a long time, the elusive but genuine magic of the series.

Interviewed recently, Louis Marks, one of British television's most top drama Producers, and one-time author of those two Tom Baker classics "Planet of Evil" and "The Masque of Mandragora" said this of the show at its best:

"...There is something in the nature of *Doctor Who*, and I can't tell you what it is even though I believe it is what accounts for all the public interest in the show. There's a kind of rich vein of inventiveness that gets trapped whenever you start working on *Doctor Who*, perhaps because, even if only subconsciously, you're avoiding doing the obvious."

Well, with the first two episodes of "Remembrance of the Daleks" having just aired, I am delighted to report that rich vein of inventiveness has been tapped to a level where we've had the best season opener for years, certainly since "Castrovalva" and possibly even beyond yet.

Scripted by newcomer Ben Aaronovitch and directed by Andrew Morgan, "Remembrance" is a wonderful blending of writers and Directors' arts; combining cracking action with genuine pathos, and exploring much deeper into the persona of the seventh Doctor than anything done for '87.

Amidst a wealth of good performances, one scene in particular shines out for yours truly - as the Doctor, tired and depressed after a day of mistakes, seeks a rare moment of tranquility in a small, roadside cafe.

In conversation with the black shopkeeper, whose father was a sugarcane cutter in the West Indies, he ponders the power of casual relationships implicit from so simple a decision as whether or not to add sugar to his tea, and what would happen to the structure of the Universe if someone could control that decision. It's a simple, very straightforward scene but contained within it are all the seeds that ever made *Doctor Who* the unique program it is.

Neither have the Daleks, that other great *Doctor Who* institution, been ignored in this landmark story. Evidencing the results of a lot of homework, Aaronovitch has pulled together a lot of the apparent inconsistencies in their 25-year history and made sense of them, to a point now where the showdown between the imperial Daleks, under the Emperor, and the renegade Daleks under Davros is an eagerly awaited feast for the future.

And as a further boost towards *Doctor Who*'s public restoration, consider how the merchandising scene has

revived of late. The toy figures and props I briefly mentioned last time have finally materialised in British shops, most notably in the ASDA and TESCO chains where they be heavily promoted for Christmas. As of writing this column, only one toy store corporation in the States, "Toys R Us", has taken an option to stock the range, although I realise "Toys R Us" isn't exactly minor league stuff.

Originally these toys (the Doctor, Mel Bush, K-9, a Tetrax, the TARDIS console and a police box) were to have been marketed by "Kenner/Parker", in association with British company "DAPOL" who would have done the actual manufacturing. But "Kenner/Parker" dropped out of the deal, reportedly because they felt *Doctor Who* did not feature sufficient hardware (vehicles and props) to offer play value to children weaned on the "Star Wars" and "Masters of the Universe" ranges.

Undeterred, "DAPOL" elected to venture on alone and go boldly where no toy company had gone before. It is true they have had problems. The first batch of K-9's were olive green instead of silver.

This happened because the only reference guides the BBC sent "DAPOL" were two photographs from "Stones of Blood" location shoot, where bad light and reflection from the grass indeed made the tin hound look green tinted.

This fault has now been corrected, but expect the rare green K-9's to be fetching collector prices from Convention dealers in years to come.

And if you think that story is funny, the saga of the five-sided TARDIS console toy is similarly side-splitting in absurdity. Again the only help "DAPOL" got from BBC Enterprises (that well known contradiction in terms) was one colour still from which to work. After much head scratching, the Designers figured out the console had five sides and manufactured accordingly. On seeing the prototypes, the BBC naturally went ape and demanded they scrap and redesign a six sided configuration. "On yer bike mate..." is a polite precis of "DAPOL's" response bearing in mind plastic injection moulds cost tens thousands of dollars to tool. So while they have agreed eventually to correct/redesign the console, this will only be once sales of existing five-sided stocks have recouped the outlay money.

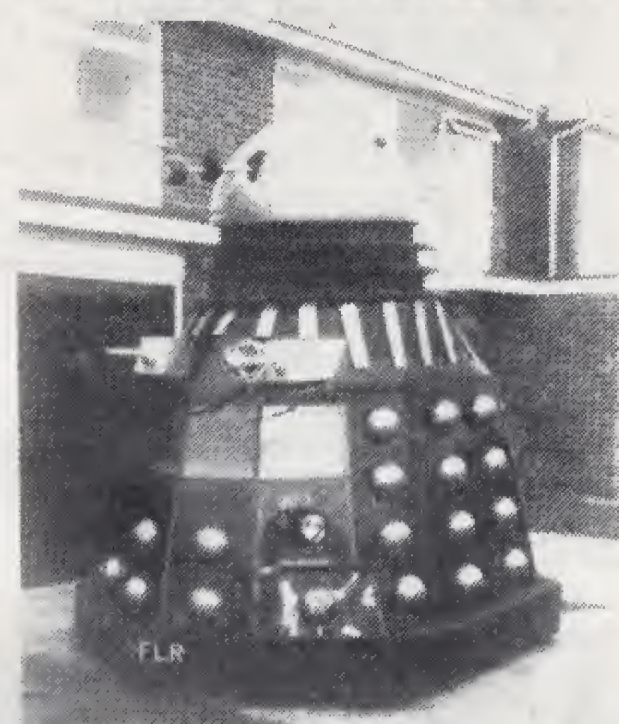
I paid a flying visit 'bop north' a few weeks ago to see around the factory at Winsford, Cheshire where the new Dalek figures are in production. Honestly, it was like a scene from "Power of the Daleks" with all hundreds of Dalek components rolling off conveyor belts, getting assembled, fitted with their drive mechanisms and sprayed either gold & white, black & gold, or silver and black.

I think I did manage to endear myself to the company manager by pointing out that for very little cost he could also have, for his Easter release, a Cyberleader as well as a Cyberman (i.e. the same product but with black jug-handles instead of silver). So, bearing in mind paint is cheaper than moulds, don't be surprised if you eventually see Robots of Death (Dums, Voc and Super-Vocs) making an appearance in the line...

I did, however, fail to dissuade "DAPOL" from doing a 12" tall doll of Bonnie Langford they want to bring out next summer. I saw the sculpture they've made, and that nearly gave me the screaming heebies-jeebies. Oh well, I imagine they'll be useful to gun clubs and to parents who want to frighten their children into submission.

Till Next Time

## EXTERMINATE!



No, no... don't shoot! This may look like the EMPORER DALEK, but it's really an automobile! Really! Although by this picture you can't tell it's black and gold, it is. The car's name is 'Dangerous Dalek' and is as near a facsimile of the set original as possible due to its road-worthy condition.

"Dangerous Dalek" was built and is owned by Mr. P. Watkins of Great Britain. The car conforms to all construction and use regulations of the Ministry of Transport. It is fully road legal and driven regularly around Mr. Watkin's home town of Aylesbury. This unique little auto features a revolving dome with flashing lights and a 100 watt "Dalek Voice". It is based on Mr. Watkin's own chassis design and is powered by an Austin 1100 CC engine. "Dangerous Dalek" is a two-seater, has four wind screens and a high-tech reflective interior.

Mr. Watkins is interested in selling his famed auto for 5000 pounds and will entertain written offers at the following address:

Mr. P. Watkins  
16 Melstock Road  
Aylesbury, Bucks HP217NU  
England

His telephone number is  
011-442-962-1865

## CAPTION CONTEST



There are two winners to last issue's caption contest; however, one didn't send their name and address in, so we can't send them a free *Doctor Who* watch (until they write in and claim it!). The first winner is Larry Blankenship from Columbus, Ohio: "Look, I told you I gave at the office, now go away, please!" The second (anonymous) is: Sontaran: "I feel a draft in the hole in the back of my neck." Doctor: "Try raising the toilet seat that's hanging around your neck!"

BE THE FIRST ON  
YOUR PLANET  
BECOME  
A  
MEMBER



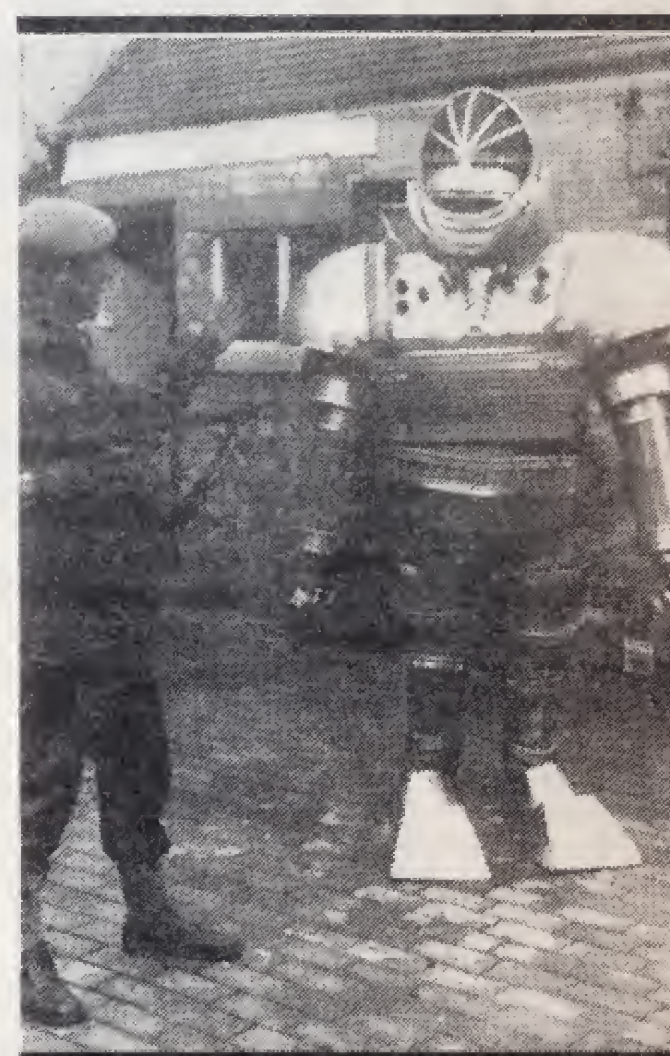
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NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
SIZE SHIRT S M L XL CIRCLE ONE

For a new, *Doctor Who* watch (and a little bit of humour), please send in a winner caption for the picture below.





Continued From Page 12

Station, entitled (imaginatively) Channel Four, which is a champion of the Arts, minority tastes and the avant-garde, and, it has to be said, is making a very good job of it.

And I also have to say that the fact that Michael Grade was never fond of "Doctor Who" as a programme does not negate his worth as a maker of Television Programmes. We all have our blind spots. I was just unlucky to be the incumbent Doctor when he was wielding his Damoclean sword.

Referring back to the regrettable departure from the BBC for personal reasons of Alisdair Milne - I too was offered the opportunity to make my own press release about my departure they would back up whatever reason I would care to give for my decision to leave the show - whether it be for personal reasons (what a euphemism!) or to pursue my stage career or to spend more time with my family or because I was allergic to Daleks! I am being naive but I really do believe that there is rarely a worthwhile substitute for the truth, however painful. It's easier to be remembered for one thing!

Then there came a further ironic twist. Brian Sloman, of Lionhart Television (which I remind you is the American wholly owned subsidiary of the BBC, which markets the latter's programmes in the States) contacted my agent to ask if I would be prepared to attend the inaugural celebrations in New Orleans for the Mobile Doctor Who Exhibit, which I had waved farewell to some months earlier in Elstree in England (along with Nicola Bryant, Janet Fielding and others). When my agent rightly pointed out that this would have to be a business arrangement as I was no longer playing the Doctor so would have less reason to wish to promote the show and would have to forgo other work in order to be able to go, discussions took place. After Mr. Sloman phoned me at my home several times to try to persuade me to attend, I eventually agreed and a deal was struck. I subsequently was unable to accept other work offered to me for the same period. It was therefore somewhat of a surprise when in January 1987 (some weeks later) my agent contacted Mr. Sloman to ask where the agreed letter of confirmation was (which had been in the post some weeks earlier) - he was told that there had been a change of plan, after Colin's article in a British newspaper about Michael Grade it was thought inappropriate to have me in New Orleans for the opening of the exhibit. My agent pointed out that a deal had been made and agreed to on the phone. The reaction, in a nutshell and after all the ducking and diving had been reduced to its basism was "prove it!"

When I subsequently heard from several reliable and unconnected sources that they had been appalled to hear several palpable untruths about me personally and professionally from the lips of Mr. Sloman. I realized just what I had been dealing with.

Now that I am distanced from direct involvement in the show for some two years or more, I have realized that it's great and wonderfully unexpected of many PBS stations who have dropped the show because, despite its continuing popularity with the viewers, it is getting to be too expensive to buy. I am hearing of increasing reticence to mount conventions because Lionheart will only supply videos of the show at punitive rates. Fans love to watch videos of their favourite show together, with a host of other fans, even though they have their own copy at home - eek, is he talking about pirate copies? Hearsay lightening bolts will wipe him off the face of the Earth! But I refuse to be coy and do not believe that the interchange of 18th generation camera copies of Doctor Who stories has ever stopped a fan from watching that episode again, at a convention together with

other fans. The availability of stories at Conventions, in good quality copies has always been a major attraction for fans and to attempt to make too much money from such a limited and single showing, will, I believe, result in the inevitable and gradual decline of the popularity of the programme. The fans will be driven, inexorably into the arms of more "user friendly" programmes, who do not try to squeeze the last cent out of an admittedly large, but not wealthy market.

There is, of course, nothing wrong in trying not to lose - which can be paraphrased as "making a profit". I loved playing the Doctor, but I did get paid for it (not as much as your fevered imaginings dear reader - but filling a need and expecting a profit from so doing. Our two great nations survive on precisely that basis. But it has to be moderated with a little common sense. I think it is known to economists as obeying market forces.

In addition to the many fan clubs in the United States, DWFCA and Spirit of Light (inter alia) have risked a lot to promote and promulgate the show over some years - in the hope and belief that giving the fans of the show a service would also result in them making a living. As always there were shadowy figures waiting in the wings, taking no risks and waiting for the right time to move in upon what they perceive to be a golden goose.

I know that people involved in DWFCA and Spirit of Light actually did care about both the show and its fans. As I did; it was a job, yes but much more than a job it was the way I learned my living, but in return I owed a duty of care. I was very much aware of the 22 years that preceded my involvement in the show and the millions of people who to varying degrees liked, loved and yes even were obsessed with the show to varying degrees. You can't please everyone of course, nor do I believe that you should try. The end result would be bland, homogenised pap. But you can do your best to keep the ball rolling (no, we're no longer in the relay race analogy!) - perhaps in new directions, as long as it's the same ball. I tried and I really did care. I was frequently - for that reason - a thorn in the collective and individual flesh of many people.

It is not just because Ron Katz of DWFCA has asked me to write this piece that I say that I know he cared and still cares and to prove that I will add that Norman Rubenstein of Spirit of Light (arguably a business rival of Ron Katz) also cared.

Certainly John Nathan-Turner cared and more keenly felt the need to safeguard the programme entrusted to his care than any other producer I know. We none of us like adverse criticism and we all at times receive it. But it's criticism which we perceive as unjust, or based on false or mistaken premises, that really hurts. Although J N-T has always been admirably stoical about taking criticism from fans, I cannot believe that he has not been hurt by the unfair criticism from certain quarters within British fandom that he has been motivated in his development of the show over the years he has been associated with by considerations other than the good of the programme. I know that J N-T has cared about the programme enormously and always sought for ways to improve it. It is always easier to sneer, carp, cavil and jeer than it is to actually do the job of producing quality television year after year. Now that John too maybe is leaving the show, I hope I join you in wishing him the greatest success in future ventures, which I'm sure will be many and varied.

Finally, dear reader, lest we part company weighed down by gloom and despondency, may I reiterate that playing the Doctor was unquestionably the high spot of my professional life. I worked with a great team from J N-T down to the newest floor assistant. Everyone always had enor-

mous enthusiasm for the project and enormous fun actually doing it.

I loved working with so many splendid actors - lovely companion Nicola Bryant in particular, dear much loved and much more missed Patrick Troughton, irrepressible Fraser Hines, my splendid friend Anthony Ainley, wonderful Kate O'Mara, the wicked and witty Michael Jayston, Brian Blessed, Joan Sim, Geoffrey Hughes, Gawn Granger, Laurence Payne, Jackie Pearce, Maurice Denham, Tony Selby, Martin Jarvis, Jason Connery and many others too numerous and talented to mention - not the least the multi-talented Bonnie Langford who had barely set foot in the TARDIS when I drank my carrot juice and left. The list really does read like a Who's Who (sorry) of British Theatre - all of whom wanted to be involved in a programme which has become more than just a programme. It is a part of our television heritage, and for a short while I was honoured to wear it's most glittering crown. I do hope that it will continue long into the future - but I wonder.....

Heigh Ho

## classified

Classified ads may be placed in the Whovian Times for \$15.00 for four lines, sixty-five characters per line. Each additional line, or portion of a line is \$5.00 extra. Our classified section is intended to be a fan commune and not a commercial endeavor. DWFCA, Inc. claims no responsibility for any tape swapping, tape selling, illegal sales of any items or any marriages that may occur from this column that turn out to be a flop.

Sample issue of penetrating biblical journal on separation of church and state. Pertinent-Comprehensive-Clear. Send .50 P & H to: American Sentinel, P.O. Box 1122, Ringgold, GA. 30736.

### CONVENTIONEER'S GUIDE

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Doctor Who collection for sale. Annuals, toys, weeklys, monthlys. Send want lists. If I don't have it, I'll find it. Send SASE to: Dale Santos, 1514 Richmond St., El Cerrito, CA 94530.

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## CONVENTION HOT LINE

### St. Louis Fantasy Fair

March 31, April 1st & 2nd, 1989. The Breckenridge Frontenac Hotel, St. Louis, Mo. Confirmed guests: John Levene, Janet Fielding, Tennative guests: Sally Knyvette, Frazier Hines, Linda Thorson.

Special Pre-Registration (3 days) \$35.00 Good until 02/15/89. Send all inquiries to:

St. Louis Fantasy Fair  
P.O. Box 4302  
Chesterfield, MO 63006-4302

### Timelord '89

September 22-24, 1989

Ramada Inn - Columbus, Ohio

#### Confirmed Guests:

Anthony Ainley The Master  
Nicholas Courtney The Brigadier  
John Nathan-Turner DW Producer

Send all registrations or information requests (with a self-addressed stamped envelope, please) to:



Timelord '89  
667 E. Church St.  
Urbana, OH. 43078  
U.S.A.

All Creation Convention inquiries  
call: 516-SHOWMAN

## TOP REGIONAL WHO ORGANIZATIONS

Below is a list of the top local (regional) Doctor Who Fan Clubs in the United States. For those of you interested in fandom on a local level, we suggest you contact the club nearest you.

DWFCA TAMPA BAY CHAPTER  
P.O. BOX 340120  
TAMPA, FL 33694  
CONTACT: CHRISTY STRONG

EARTHBOUND TIMELOARDS  
P.O. BOX 653  
MILAN, IL 61264  
CONTACT: JOFFRE WISE II

THE JERSEY JAGAROTH  
14 MILLS ST #2  
MORRISTOWN, NJ 07960  
CONTACT: MARK MODIG

THE PRYDONIANS OF PRYNCETON  
359 NASSAU STREET  
PRINCETON, NJ 08543  
CONTACT: TOM BECK

PRYDONIAN RENEGADES OF  
LAFAYETTE  
C/O PRESTON & ASSOCIATES  
P.O. BOX 2732  
WEST LAFAYETTE, IN 47906  
CONTACT: STUART WEISS

RADIO FREE GALLIFREY  
P.O. BOX 9853  
SPOKANE, WA 99209  
CONTACT: CLAY BRESHEARS

ROCHESTER UNITED WHOVIANS  
15 SOUTHRIDGE DRIVE  
ROCHESTER, NY 14626  
CONTACT: SANDY PANNONI

GALLIFREYAN EMBASSY OF LONG  
ISLAND  
232 HOKE AVE.  
OCEANSIDE, NJ 11572  
CONTACT: LOUIS TRAPANI

TANGI TARDIS TRAVELERS  
P.O. BOX 1975  
HAMMOND, LA 70404  
CONTACT: GWYN ROSS

THETA SIGMA SOCIETY  
RD. #1, BOX 65  
RINGOES, NJ 08551  
CONTACT: MARY ANN MASON

TIME MEDDLERS  
704 N. CAMDEN DRIVE  
BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210  
CONTACT: DANIELA GURA

ARCAIANS OF ALBUQUERQUE  
13508 CHICO COURT N.E.  
ABLUQUERQUE, NM 87123  
CONTACT: MICHAEL MCAFEE

BAY-AREA UNIT  
570 WEBSTER DRIVE  
MARTINEZ, CA 94553  
CONTACT: ANAMARIA ZAVALA

THE BUFFALO TIME COUNCIL  
145 BAYNES AVE.  
BUFFALO, NY 14213  
CONTACT: DENNIS BLAKE

Unearthly Children  
P.O. Box 652  
Richmond, PA 18954  
Contact: Wil Shrader

WHONIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
15301 WILLWOOD DR  
MINNETONKA, MN 55345  
CONTACT: MICHAEL LEE

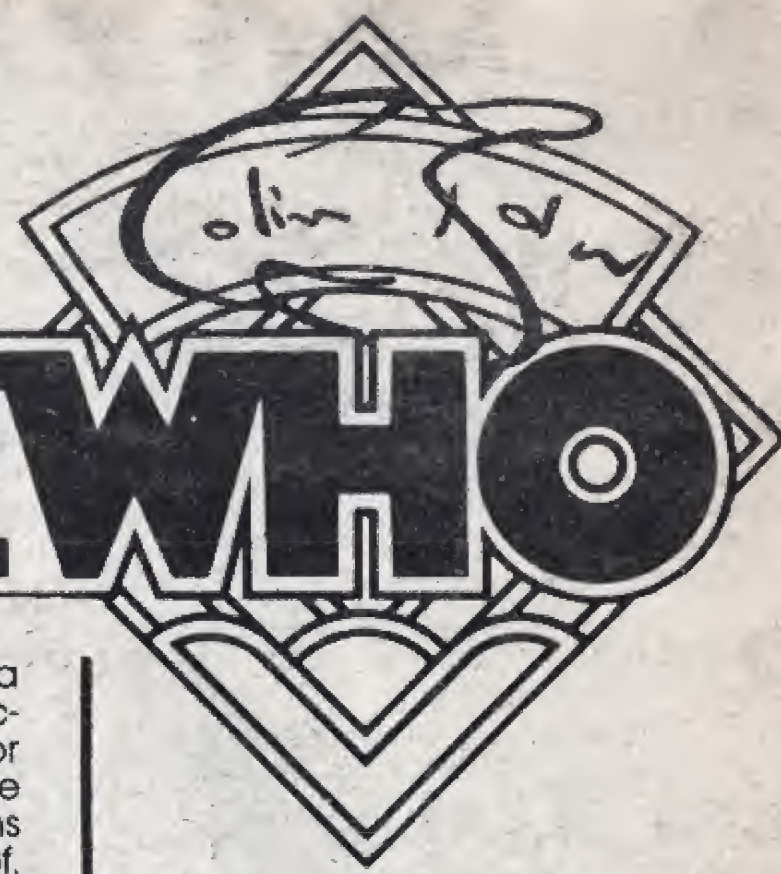
GUARDIANS OF GALLIFREY  
9557 MONTELLO DR  
ORLANDO, FL 32817  
CONTACT: DIANE MILKELSEN

TIMELOARDS OF BRAINERD  
P.O. BOX 240  
BRAINERD, MN 56401  
CONTACT: LARRY PASCHELKE





# INTERVIEWWHO



The following article is written exclusively for the Whovian Times by Colin Baker. Although Colin left the series over two years ago, it is only now that he felt up to writing about it and telling his story. Even though there have been articles written about the Michael Grade-Colin Baker-Doctor Who incident, this is the only article penned by that razor-tongued rascal himself. We hope you enjoy it.

## Buenas TARDIS

"Change my dears and several years too soon" - would, I suppose, rather neatly sum up the events of November 1986. Having finished my second full series of *Doctor Who*? I felt the bit was now between my teeth and I was raring to go on Season 24. But...instead of calling me with the details of the new Season, John Nathan-Turner, the programme's producer, had the far from enviable task of telling me that Michael Grade, Controller of BBC 1 (which to you dear reader is roughly translated as "he who must be obeyed"), had passed down the decree that the Sixth Doctor should move over for the Seventh in the new series. It was quite a bombshell. John did everything he could, without putting his own job on the line, to defend his choice of Doctor - particularly as he and David Reid (who had been the Head of Series and Serials at the BBC in 1983) had both asked me to commit myself to the show for a minimum of 4 years - to which commitment I had readily agreed. The only reason offered to John for my "departure" was that three years was the optimum time for any one actor to portray Britain's favourite Time Traveller. JN-T also told me that "they" would like me to do the first story of the new series in order to effect a regeneration between myself and whomsoever might be selected as my successor. I'm afraid that I did not respond favourably to that suggestion. I have, since that decision, received some letters from those who felt that I was selfish, that I should have bitten the bullet for the sake of the programme and it's established tradition and sacrificed my own personal feelings for the sake of the fans. However it was November 1986. The new series would start in production in May 1987 and would not reach the screens until September of that year - so I would still have been the Doctor, in the public eye for almost a further year, without any of the benefits of so being, when I needed to establish my free-lance credentials again as swiftly as possible. I have a family to support, after all. It would have been as near impossible as makes no matter to find other employment which would allow me to remain free for four weeks some six months thence. Indeed, had I agreed, against my better judgement, to those episodes and the regeneration, I would have missed out on one of the best plays that I have ever encountered in my professional career. "Corpse" opened in Bromley in March 1987, toured for three months and came in to the

Strand Theatre in London where it ran until the end of November 1987.

I would have missed the opportunity to play the wonderful homicidal Evelyn and his ruthless twin Rupert and to work with the splendid Jack Watling (father of Debbie Watling of Second Doctor fame). And to be very honest, it would quite simply have hurt too much to protract the parting. I loved the part, the programme, the production team and the crew too much. It would have taken a much stronger man than I to twiddle my fingers for five months and turn up just to tie up the loose ends before giving my favourite toy to someone else to play with. My good friends, the wonderful Pip and Jane Baker (no relation) tried very hard to persuade me to change my mind. They promised me a thundering good exit story - I had sufficient confidence in both their complete understanding of the Sixth Doctor's persona and character and their ability to make it a great departure to know that it would have been just that - but I had to decline. But I did make an appointment to see Jonathan Powell, who had taken over from David Reid as head of Series and Serials and who was situated in the BBC hierarchy between Michael Grade and John Nathan-Turner, and who had delivered the "Long Live the Doctor" order to the latter. When we met in his office "upstairs" in Shepherd's Bush, London W12, Jonathan Powell was disarmingly pleasant and asked what he could do for me. He listened to my careful but detailed expression of my perception of the grievance which felt, attentively. He assured me that neither he nor Michael Grade were in any way dissatisfied with my portrayal of the Doctor. It was just that they felt that after three years it was time to move on. They felt that the Doctor should change every three years. I ventured to suggest that aside from the interruption of production when Michael Grade controversially "axed" then reinstated the show, in a maelstrom of press and public outrage, I still had not yet been involved with the show for three years, and had only completed two years of work. He however said that he and M.G. considered that to be effectively a three year period! I also explained the reasons for my disinclination to commit myself to the one story (four episodes of a half hour each) required for the regeneration, but that I would consider doing the whole series of fourteen episodes and leaving at the end. He said that he would discuss this suggestion with Michael Grade and would be grateful if I could further ponder the possibility of doing just the first story. He promised to get back to me when they had deliberated. I never heard another word from him.

(An interesting footnote is that Jonathan Powell has now moved in to Michael Grade's job as Controller since the latter left to take over Channel Four Television - so I suppose one will perhaps now discover where the greater antipathy to the programme lay?)

Ironically, a few days after this meeting, the BBC Publicity Department contacted my agent to invite me to be a guest of the BBC in New York and Los Angeles the following month, to take part in America's celebrations for 50 years of British

Broadcasting. I was asked as a representative of the BBC's most successful and popular export - "Doctor Who?", which was quite simply the one BBC product that the PBS stations in America could not get enough of. Indeed I was once asked by senior executive of Lionheart Television (before that organization became wholly owned by the BBC) to use my best endeavours to persuade "the BBC" to make more episodes of "Doctor Who" every year. He explained to me that his job of selling BBC product to the Television Stations was made much easier when he could satisfy their appetite for "Doctor Who". Such, you see, is the power of you the fan, when you get together with your fellows to pledge and lobby your local station.

He was I think, surprised and not a little disbelieving when I explained that actors in Britain have considerably less influence on the Television Companies and their corporate decision making than do our counterparts in the U.S. In fact, I had about as much input into the process as Jon Pertwee has influence on the polarity of the neutron flow! Also, I explained, the structure of the BBC was such that they were not motivated by the considerations which affect the majority of the Western world (i.e. the potential commercial value of their output). The sale of BBC Television Programmes is the concern of BBC Enterprises - which is separate from the programme-making arm of the BBC, which, by its charter is precluded from making a profit. The revenue of these sales is then either used for specific projects or ploughed back into the general BBC coffers. It does not, except indirectly and disproportionately, get back to the department which makes the particular programme, nor is it reflected in the budget of that programme. So there is no incentive for a producer, or head of department, or indeed a controller to allow the potential overseas sales of a programme to influence their decision as to its making or otherwise. The fact that in a single year the sales of "Doctor Who" worldwide can gross more than is spent making the show each year is not a factor which motivates the programme makers.

(Tell that to NBC or ABC etc!!!) Their only brief is to make programmes for the domestic UK market. And Michael Grade is on record as having made precisely that point.

This necessarily potted dissertation about the BBC explains also why I can be "sacked" in Britain one day and paraded in the States the next to exemplify the success of the BBC.

As the aforesaid sacking had not yet been promulgated in the media; and I was in no hurry to spill the beans as it meant there was still time to alter the course of destiny, I decided to go along on the admittedly slim hope that something might happen to deviate the fickle finger of fate from pointing quite so insistently and irritatingly in my direction. In fact, I socialised with Alisdair Milne - the Director General of the BBC (\* 1 honcho) Bill Cotton - the Managing Director (\*2 ditto) both of whom were absolute gentlemen, courteous, affable and most solicitous of the well being of the three actors who had been wheeled out to wave the flag. In addition to yours truly, there was also Bob Peck and Joanne Whalley, who had starred in a really wonderful series called "The Edge of Darkness" which had been, quite rightly, the BBC's critical success of 1986. If ever you get the chance to see it do so. We were in the company of moguls, big businessmen, producers and money men from the American television and film industry; none of whom really knew who we were (one is tempted to say "nor did I care" but that would probably not be fair - anyway why should they know?) Suffice it to say that but for the concern and kindness shown by Alisdair Milne on one occasion we would have felt particularly "de trop". It was therefore very sad to read some months later than an internal upheaval within the BBC had resulted in the premature resignation "for personal reasons" of Alisdair Milne, followed swiftly by the retirement of Bill Cotton.

One of the several applicants for the job of Director General was Michael Grade. Those who are concerned for the future of "Doctor Who" will be relieved to read that he did not get the job, and resigned shortly thereafter, when - it is rumoured - a man with whom he could not get on was appointed Deputy Director General. He now runs our fourth TV

Continued on Page 11

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